

2-22-2007

# UA12/2/1 College Heights Herald, Vol. 82, No. 35

WKU Student Affairs

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**Toppers slide by KWC** page 12

**Traveling through**  
Commissioners voted to keep streets one-way page 3

Thursday, February 22, 2007

Volume 82, Number 35

# COLLEGE HEIGHTS HERALD

Western Kentucky University • Bowling Green, Kentucky

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Student News. Faculty News. Alumni News. All News.



Scott McIntyre/Herald

Clockwise from bottom right, Adairville alumnus John Law, Adairville sophomore Shaun Shull, Louisville freshman Chris Shelton and London senior Sam McGhee play the role playing game Dungeons and Dragons last night in Downing University Center.

## Going Hi-tech

### New methods keep students' attention

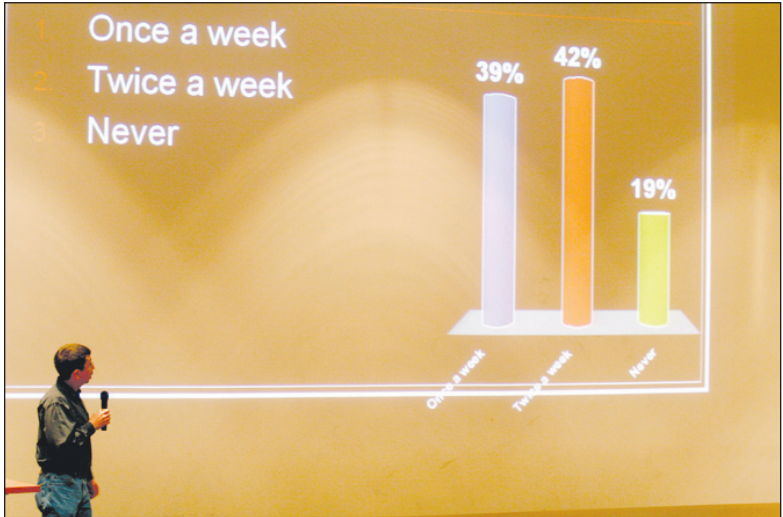
BY CHRISTINA HOWERTON  
Herald reporter

Finchville sophomore Elizabeth Lauer brings her laptop to about half of her classes to type notes or to do other things, such as editing her photos.

Lauer, a photojournalism major, said she multitasks during class if she has already read the material and the professor is lecturing, but she takes notes if the teacher goes over a PowerPoint presentation.

"I feel like I can pay attention and still get things done," she said. "I make it a point to still pay attention."

SEE ATTENTION, PAGE 7



Scott McIntyre/Herald

Assistant Journalism Professor Neil Ralston uses the projector to display statistics in the Mass Media and Technology Hall auditorium.

### Views vary on students' technological ties

BY JENNIFER DOOPER  
Herald reporter

Megan Hershey likes keeping up with the news.

Her source isn't a television news show or a daily paper. The freshman from Newport News, Va., prefers to be informed through the news feed on Facebook.

Some experts worry that students don't develop their face-to-face social skills when they're clocking more hours in front of a computer screen than they are in front of actual people.

Other authorities contend that technological advances are connecting students in a different way.

Hershey said she usually spends between one and two hours each day on Facebook. During that time, she communicates with friends through messages, wall posts and photographs. She also checks the Web site's news feed, which keeps users updated on their friends' actions on the site.

She looks at the site as soon as she gets up in the morning and before and after classes. Hershey said Facebook doesn't keep her from face-to-face socialization.

"It's not like, 'Hang on, I've got to check Facebook.' It's just like, 'Oh, I have an extra two minutes. I'll check my Facebook,'" she said.

Rick Grieve, associate professor of psychology, said Facebook is just another form of socialization.

"I'm not going to say that it's abnormal, because it's part of the culture now," he said.

Many counselors worry that the network keeps students

"I'm not going to say that it's abnormal, because it's part of the culture now."

— Rick Grieve  
Associate professor of psychology

SEE VIEWS, PAGE 8

## I-65 speed limit may increase

Ky. Senate passes bill 34-2; debate now in House

BY ELIZABETH WORSTER  
Herald reporter

The chance of getting a speeding ticket for driving 75 mph on interstate highways and parkways might change.

The Kentucky Senate passed a bill Tuesday that would change the 65 mph speed limit on major interstates and parkways to 70 mph.

The bill passed with a 34-2 vote, said Mark Brown, spokesman of the Kentucky Transportation Department.

The House of Representatives must pass the bill and send it to the governor for approval. It is currently in a House committee.

If the bill passes, changes will be made in July, the beginning of the fiscal year.

Sen. Brett Guthrie, R-Bowling Green, sponsored the bill.

Guthrie said every other state on Interstate 65 has a 70 mph speed limit and that the bill would give drivers going through Kentucky a constant speed.

SEE I-65, PAGE 6

## Textbook resolution approved

House plans to take textbook prices into consideration

BY KATIE BRANDENBURG  
Herald reporter

Pouring over a textbook is an everyday activity for many college students.

But Kentucky's legislators may be hitting the books if a concurrent resolution to study the cost of textbooks passes in the Senate.

A concurrent resolution doesn't require the governor's signature or carry the force of law.

The resolution would set up a study of the cost of textbooks for elementary through post-secondary education levels.

The bill passed in the House of Representatives on Feb. 16 with a 96-1 vote.

A similar study, released from the U.S. Government Accountability Office in July 2005,

SEE TEXTBOOK, PAGE 8

## Group offers international spouses a chance to adapt

Meetings designed to ease the transition

BY JENNIFER DOOPER  
Herald Reporter

Moving to the United States from a land far, far away isn't always a fairy tale.

Farida Habib, a part-time public health professor from Shabim, Egypt, knows this.

Habib moved to Bowling Green

last July with her husband Ahmed Emam, who is an assistant professor of computer science at Western.

Others like Habib, who are spouses of international students, faculty, researchers and staff, get to meet each other and discuss their needs in a new program called "Escape from Boredom."

The group's first meeting will take place from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Feb. 23 at the ALIVE Center.

Habib described her life as being

centered around her three young children and her job.

She said that she hasn't had the chance to meet new people or make new friends since moving.

Habib said she's looking forward to meeting people who are in similar situations.

"If my family were here, I wouldn't miss Egypt very much," she said.

Robin Borczon, director of inter-

SEE SPOUSES, PAGE 6

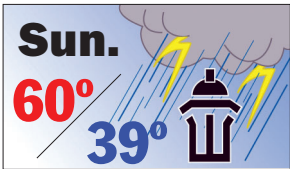
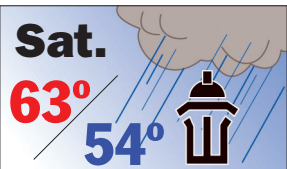


Greg Barnette/Herald

Farida Habib spends time with her children, from right, Reem, 4, Ramy, 6, and Rowand 8, after dinner at their home in Bowling Green. Habib will be participating in "Escape from Boredom," a program set up by the International Center.

### On Tuesday

The Herald takes a look at disabilities on the Hill and how Western accommodates special needs.



### Next Tuesday

Trench work and electrical projects will expand to other streets and areas on campus.



2

DAY

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats.

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WHAT'S

GOING ON

- ◆Baker Arboretum Seminar, 9 a.m. today, Agriculture Exposition Center
- ◆Nite Class, 9 p.m. today, Downing University Center
- ◆Warren County Alumni Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. today, Engineering and Biological Sciences Building
- ◆Western's Black History: Fifty Years of Integration, 6 p.m. today, Garrett Auditorium
- ◆Baseball vs. Xavier, 3 p.m. Friday, Denes Field
- ◆Moscow Circus, 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Friday, Ag Expo Center

a thousand words

Beyond the Hill



The cold surrounded him. William Moore sat in his van last Saturday night and said with a sigh, “Judges don’t do much for me. He didn’t leave me with much.”

Moore has lived in Bowling Green since his divorce last April. He owns a cleaning business but hasn’t had consistent jobs. He struggles to make ends meet, and sometimes doesn’t. He has consistently lived in the front seat of his work van. Sometimes, on the really cold nights and when he feels welcome, he’ll stay with friends.

“I used to have a house and a job and everything,” Moore said. “I just want a job. I don’t know what happened sometimes.” Moore has been trying to get a Web site to advertise his business but hasn’t managed to raise

the money for it yet. He picks up side jobs some days, but it hasn’t been enough to make a difference yet. And Moore isn’t alone.

In a 2003 report, the city of Bowling Green estimated that the area’s homeless population is 179. In a count conducted in the summer of 2006, 151 people were estimated to be homeless by Bowling Green’s Housing Assistance and Development Services, Barren River Area Safe Space and area shelters, according to an article in the Bowling Green Daily News.

Moore is just one of those people.

Trevor Frey is a senior photojournalism major from Caledon, Ontario. Reach him at [trevor.frey@wku.edu](mailto:trevor.frey@wku.edu).

Crime reports

Reports

- ◆Police responded to a fire alarm in Gilbert Hall on Feb. 17 when a pan of oil in the third floor kitchen caught fire.
- ◆Karen L. Schneider, English department, reported a theft Feb. 20 in the Cherry Hall mail room when she discovered an Epson 2000 Lumens XGA Multimedia projector missing.
- ◆Doug Wiles, Helm-Cravens Library, reported an attempted theft more than \$300 on Feb. 20 when

he discovered a man attempting to leave the library with a journal. The value of the recovered property was \$850.

Arrests

- ◆Derek L. Chaffin, Rockfield, was arrested on charges of disorderly conduct in the second degree, disregarding a traffic control device, excessive window tint and an obstructed windshield Feb. 20 in the Diddle lot. He was released from Warren County Regional Jail Feb. 20 on a court order.

Corrections

Due to a source error, the minimum wage factored into Western’s 2007-08 budget was incorrectly identified in a front page story about the university’s preliminary budget.

Western has set its budget to provide for paying minimum wage workers \$5.85 an hour.

Due to a Herald error, Kentucky Wesleyan was incorrectly identified in a men’s basketball article on the sports front of the Feb. 20 issue.

Kentucky Wesleyan is known as the Panthers.

The Herald regrets the errors.

The College Heights Herald corrects all confirmed errors that are brought to reporters’ or editors’ attention. Please call 745-6011 or 745-5044 to report a correction, or e-mail us at [herald@wkuherald.com](mailto:herald@wkuherald.com).

THOMAS LENNON WENDI MCLENDON-COVEY NEECY NASH CEDRIC YARBROUGH MUSIC BY CRAIG WEDREN CO-PRODUCER PENNY ADAMS

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Bowling Green

# City commission votes to keep downtown one-way

BY ELIZABETH WORSTER  
*Herald reporter*

Bowling Green locals were standing in every available space at the city commissioners meeting.

The electronic doors were pushed open to accommodate all of the people who wanted to voice their opinions Tuesday on making some downtown streets two-way.

The vote was 4-1 against making streets two-way. Commissioners also passed a \$2 million project to update four old traffic signals.

The vote was pushed to the beginning of the meeting when there was standing room only.

The only commissioner who voted against the change was Assistant Economics Professor Brian Strow.

Strow said that commissioners had three options to choose from — keep the streets one-way for 30 years, go two-way immediately or change the streets to a convertible option.

The convertible option would mean having two-way traffic

lights. One side of the lights wouldn't work until the city later made the roads two-way.

Strow said he supported the convertible option because "decades from now, the city would have the option of looking at going to two-way."

"The mayor indicated it would be irresponsible to keep streets as they are and not purchase the convertible," Commissioner Brian "Slim" Nash said.

Mayor Elaine Walker said she hoped commissioners would vote for the two-way option, but they instead voted to stay one-way.

Walker said there were already the required number of votes to keep one-way streets, so she also voted in favor of it.

"When it came time to vote, she voted against her own position, which I thought was interesting," Nash said.

Pastor Matthew W. Covington of The Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green on State Street said the vote was a good decision.

Covington's church doesn't own parking, so most patrons have to park on the street.

Some street parking spaces would have been lost under the convertible plan. Officials were considering building a parking structure to make up for the lost spaces.

A recent survey from the Public Works Department showed that 76 percent of respondents opposed changing to two-way streets and 16 percent were in favor.

Nash said moving to two-way streets would hurt businesses and churches.

"Tonight, we've made a decision for the next 30 years," he said.

Margaret Stein, a 32-year resident of Bowling Green, also said the commission made the right decision.

"Every downtown in every city has one-way. It's just you have to find a way to navigate," she said.

Reach Elizabeth Worster  
at [news@wkuherald.com](mailto:news@wkuherald.com).

## ► News brief

### SGA trying to increase attendance

The Student Government Association executive cabinet wants more participation from its senators.

There was no new business to present at Tuesday's meeting, and attendance at committee meetings has been poor, President Jeanne Johnson said.

The meeting lasted a little longer than 15 minutes.

Johnson said it's time for committees to buckle down

and work hard.

It's disappointing that SGA doesn't have new business, Johnson said at the meeting.

Johnathon Boles, SGA speaker of the senate, said he's disappointed in committee attendance.

Boles told SGA senators it's important for them to participate.

Academic Affairs Chairman Lucas Humble, a Monticello sophomore, said he knows senators are busy, but his committee needs people to attend.

Joshua Fries, a public rela-

tions committee chairman and a Louisville junior, said he wants to work on his committee's first piece of legislation.

It's hard to get things done with such low attendance, Fries said.

Public Relations Director Jonathan Sprowles said he was disappointed in SGA's attendance at the rally.

"If we don't show up and voice our opinion, students won't either," Sprowles said.

— Jessica VanWinkle

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**Robert Brooks, Ph.D.**

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Internationally acclaimed author and speaker, Dr. Brooks has written extensively about motivation, classroom climate, qualities of effective leaders, parenting and family relationships, balancing personal and professional lives, and resilience. Among his many works, he authored *The Self-Esteem Teacher* and co-authored *Raising Resilient Children* and *The Power of Resilience: Achieving Balance, Confidence, and Personal Strength in Your Life*. He is renowned for the warmth and humor he brings to his presentations.

Books will be on sale at the lecture, and Dr. Brooks will be available to sign them.

**Tuesday, February 27, 7:00 PM**

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OPINION

College Heights Herald • Western Kentucky University • Thursday, February 22, 2007 • Page 4

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EDITORIAL

American news becoming a diet of junk food

**THE ISSUE:** Celebrity and gossip stories are getting more attention from media outlets that are often thought respectable.

**OUR VIEW:** Newspapers, networks and other media need to get their priorities straight and stop chasing after scandals.

Tabloid news has always held a special place in American culture. People love hearing about celebrities who run afoul of the law, are photographed looking less than glamorous or shave their heads in a fit of glee.

In the past week, countless newspapers and networks have sated viewers’ desire to hear about Anna Nicole Smith’s untimely death, Britney Spears suddenly adopting Sinéad O’Connor’s look or astronaut Lisa Nowak’s affinity for diapers and long-distance driving.

It’s understandable that a major media outlet would want to devote time to such stories, and there’s nothing wrong with taking a minute or two out of a half-hour broadcast to report on them. If everything in the news was about war or politics, it would be too depressing to watch or read.

But these stories are starting to work their way into the front pages of newspapers and the top stories of nightly news broadcasts. Cable news networks are the worst offenders, hammering us with sensational fodder at the expense of news stories that actually affect viewers.

Even local news outlets, which are supposed to stay focused on what is happening in your neighborhood, have distracted themselves with gossip and shock stories. Imagine our surprise when we heard of Spears’ baldness from an 11:00 p.m. Louisville broadcast.

The people profiled in these stories have increasingly grown dependent on news coverage for social status. Spears has not put out an album in three years. Smith had one reality show to her name. Paris Hilton has made one reality show, one album and a handful of poorly received TV and movie appearances.

The bulk of their careers rest on keeping people interested in whatever they do in public. If this problem were confined to supermarket tabloids and TV shows like “Extra,” that would be fine. But

media outlets that normally have focused on international and political news are now reinforcing the public’s attention to tabloid stars.

Yes, news is a business. Newspapers and entertainment magazines alike make money off advertising, as do news programs and sitcoms. But news media outlets must understand that they are in the business of news, not entertainment, and thus are destined to make less money.

Instead of caving in to the temptation to put Spears on the front page, many newspapers have started running weekly sections focusing on getting real news to younger readers. Some recruit writers from high schools to pen articles on how they feel a major issue affects them and their peers.

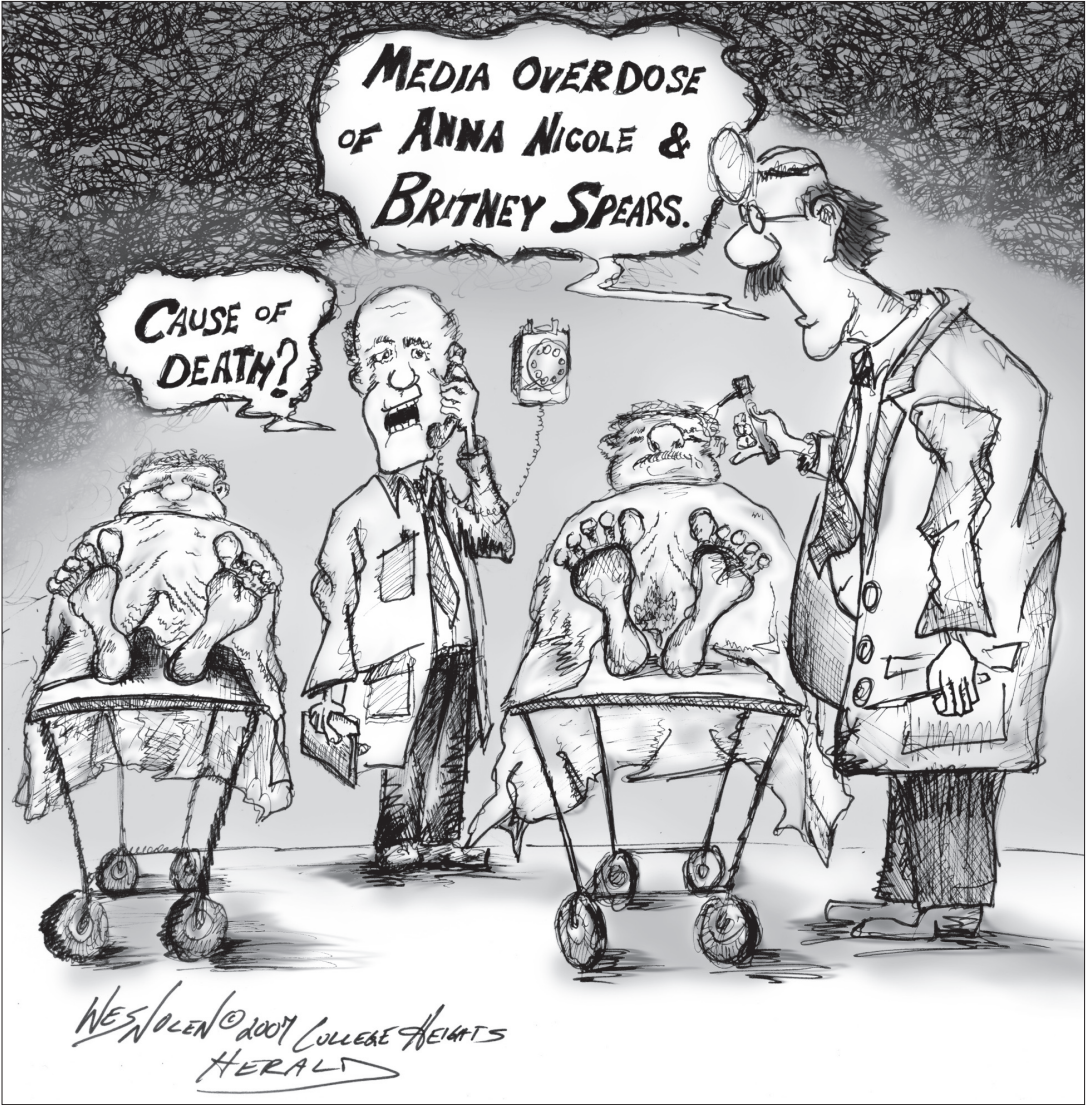
More importantly, readers and viewers should demand better coverage from their media. If editors and producers think they are giving their readers the information they want when they put a Paris Hilton story before a story on a law passed by Congress, they need to hear differently.

But readers and viewers should not only talk to their favorite source of news; they should expand their knowledge. News media won’t change if its patrons don’t educate themselves on the important issues. No one should have to spend their entire day worrying about every problem, but at least having a grasp of them could make citizens better aware of what impacts them.

There always will be people who don’t care about the latest happenings from any place in the world besides Los Angeles or New York City, but that is no reason to act like they are the only consumers of news. Just make sure Spears, Hilton and the other attention-seekers stay off the front page.

The rest of us shouldn’t have to suffer through C-SPAN to hear what needs to be heard.

*This editorial represents the majority view of the Herald’s 10-member board of student editors.*



COMMENTARY

Western can play a greener role



by Jason Sloan

“This is my campus” — that is exactly what you should be thinking as you walk onto Western’s grounds every morning. Western is the place where we choose to live four-plus years of our lives while transitioning from a “childhood” home to an intellectual life. According to the Tuition and Fee Schedule for fall 2007, the average out-of-state student paid \$15,470 this year; the average in-state student paid \$6,416. At current rates, the average student will pay \$43,772 to live at and attend Western for four years ([www.wku.edu/bursar/fees.html](http://www.wku.edu/bursar/fees.html)).

Though I am proud to attend a beautiful university that envisions itself as a leading American institution, I am worried that we are not taking the proper steps to ensure Western maintains this image.

Recently, Western made the decision to move to I-A football. This move was to help Western as a leading American institution. Is this the proper way? Are we going to be leaders by attending a larger stadium?

Is the move to I-A football moving us into the ranks of great American universities? I think not.

Leaders are defined as those at the forefront of an issue that impacts others. Diminishing natural resources (oil), pollution and global warming: Are these not the issues which should concern us? I know, one may find difficulty in sympathizing with those affected by deforestation in South America, overpopulation in China or even a sludge spill in eastern Kentucky; it is far easier to understand that our pocketbooks — and our campus — are at the disposal of the administration. It is our responsibility to be more environmentally aware.

This does not mean throwing away cigarette butts and candy wrappers. We need to become an exemplar for other schools. If “Western Kentucky University aspires to become a leading American university with international reach,” then we must be globally aware students — environmentally, socially and politically ([www.wku.edu/future.html](http://www.wku.edu/future.html)). Environmental issues are not simply the problems of Al Gore; they are something with which all of us must wrestle. Ball State, Florida State University and the University of Washington have programs that include becoming more environmentally sustainable or water conservative. (Environmental sustainability is defined as using local resources rather than resources that are flown, shipped and trucked from across the globe.) These campuses have recognized the necessity for

environmental education and stepped up to the plate. This is leadership — environmental stewardship over a I-A football team.

What actions can we take? Some of the easiest solutions are the most obvious: reduce, recycle, re-use. How about driving less? Rather than advocating more parking, maybe we should advocate less parking. By fighting for less parking, we would reduce air pollution, possibly increase green space, help prevent other pollutants (such as oil and gas that often leak from vehicles) and demonstrate that we are, in fact, a leading American university. If you do not want to drive less and walk more, then push for a portion of the \$85 parking fee to be used for expanding greenways (i.e. bicycle and walking paths) or cleaning the air of pollutants left from vehicles.

I am happy to attend — and pay for — a campus that overlooks the Barren River, is home to white squirrels and has vision. I would be proud to attend a university that looks toward the future rather than attempting a “quick” fix to get more students, which, by the way, will perpetuate the environmentally unsafe habits Western is accumulating.

*Jason Sloan is a senior English literature and philosophy major from Columbia, Tenn.*

*The opinions expressed in this commentary do not reflect the opinions of the Herald or the university.*

These are the Herald’s views on the good, the bad and the slightly unattractive.

TOPS & Bottoms



**A standing ovation** to Western for having the ‘Divine Nine,’ the historically black fraternities and sororities that make up the National Pan-Hellenic Council, represented on campus.



**A disappointed sigh** to Kentucky public universities for hovering below the national average for bachelor’s degree graduates, but...



**An enthusiastic shout-out** to Western for continuing to increase in bachelor’s degree graduates despite the statewide slow-down.



**A big cheer** for students participating in Up ‘Til Dawn, who pulled in almost twice the amount of money for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital than they earned last year.

COLLEGE HEIGHTS HERALD

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\*Denotes editorial board members

The Herald publishes Tuesdays and Thursdays

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The Herald encourages readers to write letters and commentaries on topics of public interest. **Here are a few guidelines:**

- Letters should not exceed 250 words, and commentaries should be 500-600 words.
- Originality counts. There’s no grade at stake here. Please don’t submit plagiarized work.
- For verification, letters and commentaries must include your name, phone number, home town and classification or title. YOUR WORK WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION IF YOU FAIL TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION.
- If you choose to e-mail your letter or commentary, please do not send it as an e-mail attachment. We use Macintosh computers.
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Column

# Beads, bruises highlight festival



UNPROTECTED TEXT

Joey Leslie

If T-shirt existed that said, “I got ridiculous at Mardi Gras and lived to tell about it,” I would buy it and wear it proudly.

I went to New Orleans this past weekend but didn’t bring back that shirt. I didn’t even bring back my cell phone. I did, however, return with newfound wisdom — and a knot on my forehead, a cut on my ankle and a bruise on my knee.

I decided I’d go to New Orleans for two important reasons: (a) just to say I’ve been to Mardi Gras and (b) to have good stories to tell upon my return. Luckily, I managed to piece together some foggy memories into life-changing lessons.

**Lesson 1: When in New Orleans during Mardi Gras, do as the drunken tourists do.**

I considered keeping my alcohol intake relatively minimal to ensure that I would remember every delightful detail of my Mardi Gras experience. But I soon found that a lot of alcohol goes a little way when you’re in the midst of a drunken mob.

I think it was on Bourbon Street that a trip to the Porta-Potty quickly turned into 20 minutes of involuntarily swaying to-and-fro

in one spot, my face stuffed into the armpit of a stranger and an elbow jabbed into my back. It might have been my own.

I know few people who would call such a scenario fun. Without a couple of Hand Grenade drinks, I would have found it intolerable. The fact is, a few drinks will make most things better, but at Mardi Gras they’re necessary for enjoyment.

**Lesson 2: Not all southerners buy in to the hospitality bit.**

Until participating in the festivities, I had never known real pain. And unless you, too, have been pelted about the face and neck repeatedly with flying, multi-colored beads, you haven’t either. Hell hath no fury like a disgruntled bead-thrower on the last float of a parade — except of course for the 300-pound bouncer with an attitude problem who rudely and unnecessarily ejected me from a bar by my neck. He definitely had some misplaced fury.

**Lesson 3: Never let an opportunity pass you by.**

So what if I lost my cell phone, ruined my favorite pair of shoes and got a little banged up? I’ve never felt more alive than when clawing and elbowing my way through throngs of drunken strangers on the streets of New Orleans to reunite with my friends. I returned mostly unscathed and without a police escort. But most importantly, I came back with tons of good stories and some lessons that can only be learned from living.

Reach Joey Leslie  
at features@wkuherald.com.

## Academics

# Leaves may turn up heat

BY NINA BOSKEN  
Herald reporter

When some people think about leaves, they think about jumping into big piles during the fall.

Then, they bag the leaves and assume the story ends for their yard waste.

But leaf compost might also be used for heating.

Engineering students are experimenting at Western’s farm to see if the heat can warm greenhouses.

They want to heat greenhouses in the winter and at night, Agriculture Department Head Jack Rudolph said.

Greenhouses are currently warmed by mechanical heaters.

If this idea is feasible, it

could help the environment by using natural resources, said Bowling Green senior Adam Tabor, one of the students working on the project.

Tabor said he’s learned project management skills from the experiment.

Kevin Schmaltz, associate professor of engineering and faculty adviser for the project, said he’s happy with the project. He said it’s a great opportunity for students.

“It’s important for us to show our students that engineers have an obligation to benefit society,” he said.

Students are constructing a model of the experiment, and it should be done by the end of the school year, Rudolph said.

The model is funded by a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant of \$100,000, Schmaltz said.

The compost will sit on a pad above the greenhouse, and tubes of water will run through it, Rudolph said. The compost will heat the pad and water.

“Leaves are decomposed anyway, so why wouldn’t you want to capture the heat?” Rudolph said.

Bowling Green currently collects leaves from the city and takes them to Western’s farm to be composted and used for experimentation.

Reach Nina Bosken  
at news@wkuherald.com.

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1:40, 3:50, 7:30, 10:00

**MUSIC AND LYRICS (PG-13)**  
12:50, 1:30, 3:10, 3:40, 6:20, 7:10, 9:10, 9:40

**BECAUSE I SAID SO (PG-13)**  
12:30, 3:00, 6:50, 9:20

**NUMBER 23 (R)**  
1:10, 3:30, 7:00, 9:30

**RENO 911: MIAMI (R)**  
2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50

**DADDY'S LITTLE GIRLS (PG-13)**  
1:20, 4:10, 7:40, 10:10

**NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG)**  
12:40, 3:20, 6:30, 9:00

**NORBIT (PG-13)**  
1:20, 2:00, 4:00, 4:40, 6:40, 7:50, 9:20, 10:00

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**THE ASTRONAUT FARMER (PG)**  
1:00, 4:00, 7:20, 10:00

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1:10, 3:50

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1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10

**FACTORY GIRL (R)**  
1:20, 3:30, 7:30

**AMAZING GRACE (PG)**  
12:50, 3:40, 6:30, 9:20

**BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA (Pg)**  
1:20, 2:00, 4:00, 4:30, 6:20, 7:10, 9:00, 9:30

**DREAMGIRLS (PG-13)**  
6:50, 9:40

**PURSUIT OF HAPPYNES (PG-13)**  
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

**THE ABANDONED (R)**  
1:50, 4:40, 7:40, 10:10

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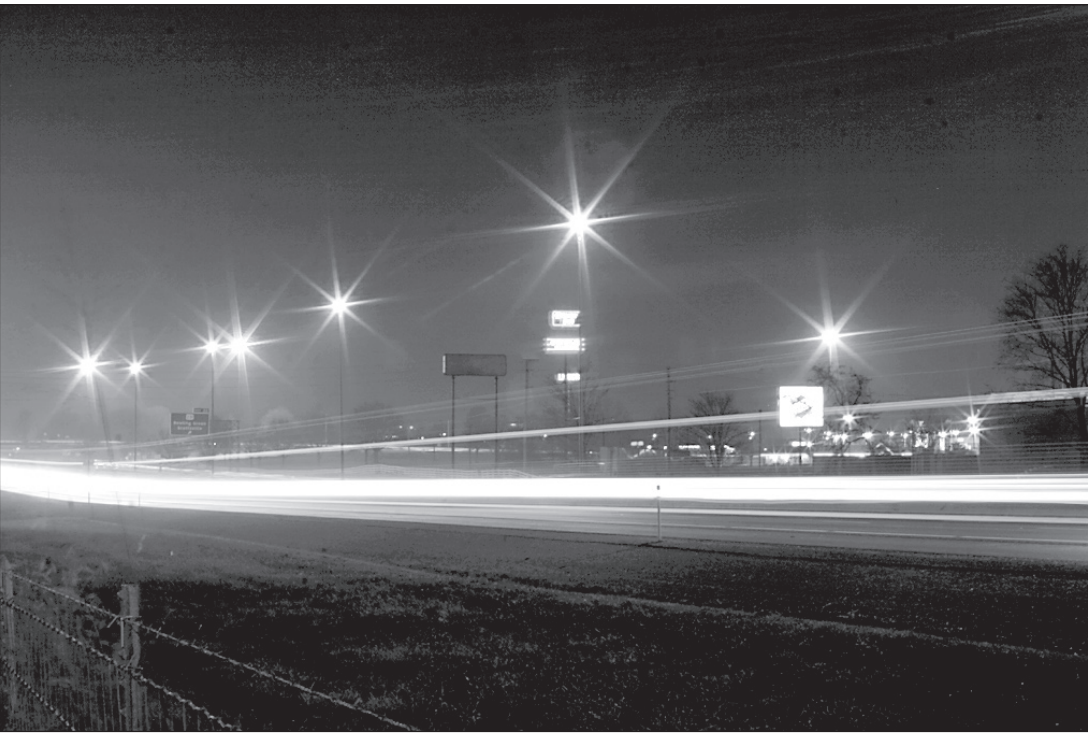
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Dana Rieber/Herald

Cars travel along mile 23 of Interstate 65 on the evening of Feb. 21.

## I-65

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The bill first appeared during the 2006 legislative session. That version of the bill also proposed changing four-lane state highways with a 55-mph speed limit to 60 or 65 mph.

That caused concerns about

eastern Kentucky roads that are winding and curvy, said Rep. Jim DeCesare, R-Bowling Green.

Interstates were designed to accommodate 75 mph or higher, but the speed limit dropped to in the '70s, Guthrie said.

City commissioner Brian "Slim" Nash said the bill is important, and other states have increased their speed limits.

Todd Holder, public information officer for the Kentucky State

Police, said increasing the speed limit by 5 mph probably won't keep people from speeding.

Individual officers pull people over for various speeds, depending on what those officers consider speeding, Holder said.

The state police issued 861 speeding tickets in December and 867 in January, Holder said.

Reach Elizabeth Worster at news@wkuherald.com.

## SPOUSES

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Robin Borczone, director of international programs and projects, said the group is designed to bring the spouses of Western's international population together in a relaxed setting.

The first meeting will focus on what members want from future gatherings, she said.

"The goal is to meet people, share information and meet needs," Borczone said.

Associate Communication Professor Larry Caillouet said moving to the United States as someone's spouse can be isolating.

"We automatically assume that they'll be happy with the freedoms of the U.S.," he said.

Most people at the meeting will be women, Borczone said.

Borczone, who worked with

international spouses at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, said a similar program was successful there.

The spouses there formed subgroups such as a lunch group, a baby-sitting club and a movie group and took conversational English classes, she said.

Yafa Shanneik, who is married to Oliver Scharbrodt, assistant religious studies professor, said she's looking forward to the services the group will provide.

"Such a club could make life easier for a lot of people," Shanneik said.

She and Scharbrodt moved to Bowling Green from Wuerzburg, Germany, six months ago.

Shanneik is working on her doctorate dissertation. She hopes to discuss academics with other spouses.

"(The group) is about giving people the feeling that they have a home here," she said.

The group will provide con-

versational English classes and help spouses learn to apply for a driver's license, sign children up for school and create a bank account, Borczone said.

Rebekah Golla, a native of Isle, Minn., and spouse of an international professor, said she's looking forward to the meetings. She's married to Vijay Golla, an assistant professor of public health from Vishakhapatnam, India.

Before coming to Western, she worked with international students at the University of Iowa, where she interacted with more than 100 spouses a week through similar programs.

"Often, the husband is busy at school or at work, and it's much more difficult for their spouse to meet people," she said.

Transportation and child-care will be provided for the meeting.

Reach Jennifer Dooper at news@wkuherald.com.

## Congratulations to the CHHS Freshmen Stars! Dean's List

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Allison R. Dial  
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Lisa N. Finn  
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Rachel Gossett  
Lindsey N. Gould  
Hillary G. Harper  
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William J. Miller  
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Tara R. Morgan  
Crystal L. Morrison  
Elizabeth A. Ralph  
Melanie B. Ramsey

Jacqueline S. Rock  
Maggie L. Roe  
Cyrstal L. Rooker  
Jessica M. Rule  
Opal E. Sea  
Jennifer N. Slayton  
Samantha L. Slow  
Alan R. Smith  
Maegan S. Smith  
Meagan L. Spears  
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► **News brief**

**Big Brothers Big Sisters to bowl for kids**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Kentucky will host its biggest fundraiser next week.

The Rivendell Bowl for Kids’ Sake fundraiser will take place at three locations.

The first fundraiser will be Tuesday from 5 to 9 p.m. at Downing University Center’s bowling lanes on the fourth floor.

There will also be two community bowling events. The first will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 3 and 12:30 to 4 p.m. on March 4 at Southern Lanes on Scottsville Road.

The second community bowl will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 10 at

Highlander Bowl in Glasgow.

Participants should be in teams of five. Each team should raise at least \$125, or \$25 per person before to the event.

Participants will be entered in drawings for prizes based on how much they raise.

Possible prizes include gift cards to Mariah’s Restaurant, \$1,000 to Ashley Furniture Home Store and a free dinner for two at Applebee’s once a month and one free movie rental each month for a year.

Each team will bowl for an hour.

For more information call the Bowling Green Big Brothers Big Sisters office at (270) 781-1180.

— Christina Howerton

**ATTENTION**

Continued from front page

More teachers are using technology such as PowerPoints and video clips to keep students’ attention.

According to the book “Tuned Out,” by David Mindich, a journalism and mass communications professor at St. Michael’s College in Vermont, there is a generational trend of people 40 and younger paying less attention to the news and having less focus because of the array of entertainment choices.

People tend to pay less attention to what is important when there is an infinite number of choices and most of them are entertainment, he said.

Students lack focus because of self-selection, Mindich said. It’s important for teachers to experiment with different ways of delivering information so they can keep their students attentive for longer.

“I encourage discussion so students can focus on the

classroom instead of cell phones and e-mail,” he said.

Assistant Journalism Professor Neil Ralston said he uses video clips, photos and PowerPoints because they help some students learn material more thoroughly.

PowerPoints help because students can always see what the teacher is talking about, Somerset sophomore Lesley Stringer said.

It helps her understand and follow along, she said.

Some students are visual learners, but some learn better in other ways, Ralston said.

“Technology gives us the tools to reach all different types of learners,” he said.

Kathleen Matthew, a professor of curriculum and instruction, said there are three basic learning styles — auditory, visual and kinesthetic.

Auditory learners pick up information best when it is presented in a lecture and discussion format.

Visual learners do best in classrooms where information is written. PowerPoints and handouts help visual learners.

Kinesthetic learners learn by

doing something themselves. They do well in hands-on classroom settings.

Associate History Professor Robert Dietle said he doesn’t use technology in his teaching on a regular basis.

Dietle said his teaching methods consist of lecturing, reading from the textbook and discussion.

“I focus on things I am good at,” he said. “Things I can help them with.”

Dietle said his students usually pay attention because he asks questions throughout his lectures.

“That helps liven things up a little,” he said.

Unless there are special circumstances, Dietle does not adapt his teaching methods to different learning styles because students should experience several different types of teaching, he said.

“If you think you have a certain way of learning, you need to try other ways, too,” Dietle said.

Experiencing different ways of learning helps students have a well-rounded education, he said.

John Bowers, director of academic technology, said teachers shouldn’t use technology in the classroom unless it is for the purpose of improving students’ learning.

“There’s better technology to help with teaching than there ever has been before,” Bowers said.

Cecile Garmon, director of communication for graduate studies, said she diversifies activities in her classes so that she can reach all types of learners.

She teaches using different activities so students pay more attention, she said.

“They get up and move around the rooms so that they are not sitting still trying hard to listen the entire time,” Garmon said.

Bowers said he is trying to get computers and projectors into more classrooms around campus because faculty and students are surprised when they end up in a classroom without them.

“We just want faculty to have the tools that they need to teach,” he said.

Reach Christina Howerton at [features@wkuherald.com](mailto:features@wkuherald.com).



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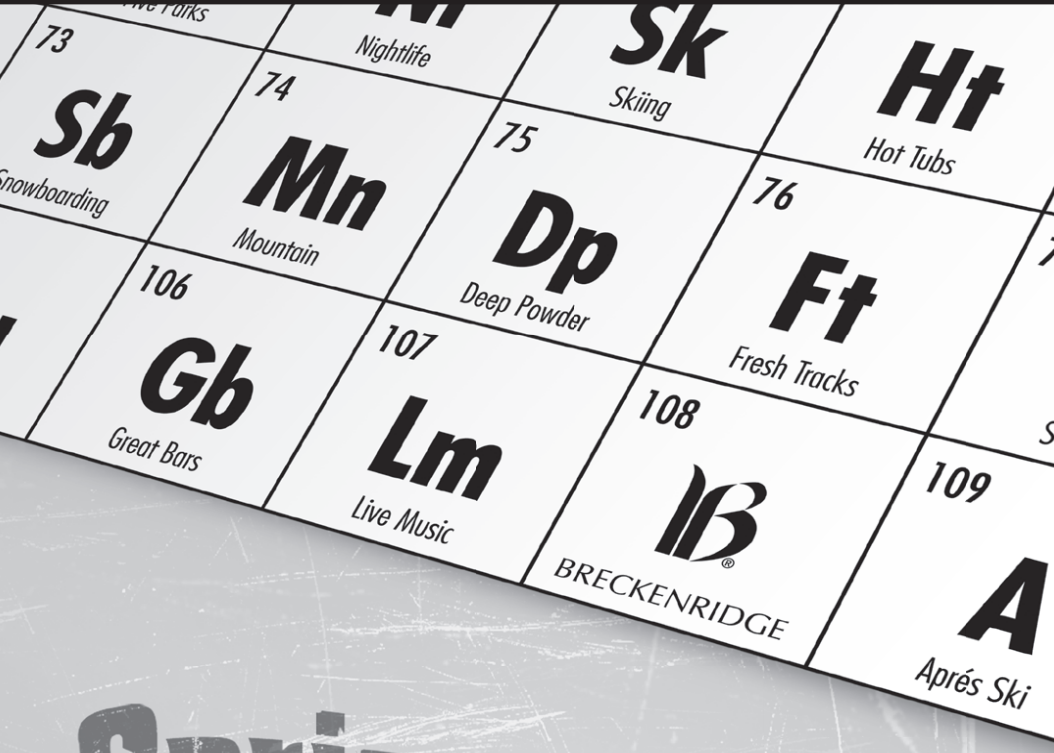
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Jake Stevens/Herald

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S

Every tale has a twist; every life has a passion. What's your story?

Student's homes vary from Bosnia to Bowling Green

BY HEATHER RYAN  
*Herald reporter*

Last year, Bowling Green freshman Anela Bosnjakovic learned of her grandfather's death. He was a man she never got to know, as he was a prisoner of war for three years and she hadn't seen him in more than 15 years.

The 17-year-old Bosnian refugee had several family members die during the Bosnian War that she and her family fled from when she was 2 1/2 years old.

Born in Zvornik, Bosnia, Bosnjakovic moved to Germany during the war, where it became necessary to learn German.

After eight years in Germany, Bosnjakovic moved to New York City to be close to her family. She had to learn English and attend English-speaking schools to adapt to the culture.

To her, adjusting to a new environment was easy — she'd been doing it for years.

"I was young, so it was easy for me to learn," Bosnjakovic said.

After a year in New York, Bosnjakovic's family moved to Bowling Green because they didn't like the big city and they had more family here.

"Bowling Green was a lot like our town back in Germany," because of its small-town, rural feel, she said.

Despite having to learn three languages before entering high school, Bosnjakovic graduated early, in December 2006, from Warren Central High School with a 3.9 grade point average.

Bosnjakovic has already decided she wants to be a pharmacist.

Paul Burchett, an Adairville sophomore and Bosnjakovic's boyfriend, said her commitment to her future is an example of her character.

"She always knows what she wants to do," he said. "And she does it."

While her friends say Bosnjakovic is extraordinary when it comes to her studies and her willingness to learn, school's

**Anela Bosnjakovic**

**Who's your favorite singer?**  
John Mayer, because I saw his show last Friday.

**Who's your favorite actor?**  
Jim Carrey — I think he's hilarious.

**Do you have a motto you live by?**  
Live, love, laugh.

**TEXTBOOK**

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

showed that textbook prices increased by 186 percent from 1986 to 2004.

Rep. Rick Nelson, D-Middlesboro, sponsored the resolution. He said the study would be different from the GAO study because it will include more recent information and will be specific to Kentucky.

Nelson, a retired health and physical education teacher from Bell County, said he got the idea for the study from his former students.

"I think one thing all parents want for kids is to see them do better than you did," Nelson said.

He said the study would help find reasons that textbook costs

are so high and ways to defer those costs.

But Rep. David Floyd, R-Bardstown, said a study would reveal what is already known about textbook pricing — that it is caused by a variety of factors.

Floyd's was the only vote against the resolution.

He said the study could have been requested without legislation.

Legislation setting book prices wouldn't be possible because it would limit a free-market business, Floyd said.

Controlling textbook prices should be left in the hands of people who select and order them, he said.

Books are marked up 20 percent of the publisher's price at the University Bookstore, Bookstore Department Manager Forrest Halford said.

A 20 percent mark-up is an industry standard, but some stores use a 30 percent mark-up instead, he said.

Old books are bought back at as much as half the price. They are then sold back to students at 25 percent below the original selling price, he said.

Halford said Western's prices are competitive.

Robert Hall, general manager of University Textbook and Supply, said custom books and books that include access codes for Web sites generally cost more and are bought back for less, or not at all.

Publishers, not bookstores, set prices, Hall said.

"It's always out of the bookstore's hands," he said.

Reach Katie Brandenburg at news@wkuherald.com.

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VIEWS

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

from getting to know each other in person, said Karl Laves, psychologist and interim director of the Counseling Services Center.

But he's not concerned.

Laves said Facebook and other networking Web sites, such as MySpace, cater to students who aren't as comfortable in person-to-person social situations.

"Some students who are probably less socially comfortable might really connect or feel like this way is easier for them," he said.

He said people who are socially awkward or anxious are more likely to spend lots of time on Facebook.

Laves also cited Facebook as a powerful and sensitive tool for students who are dealing with a loss.

"You can create a group for the grieving, and then you can take it away when you're ready," he said. "It is a constantly available way to make contact, not with the person who has died, but with that whole experience."

Grieve said there have been studies indicating that people who use the Internet more often tend to report being more lonely.

"It could just be that lonely people feel more comfortable using the Internet," he said.

"But we can't say that using the Internet causes people to be more lonely," he said.

London senior Sam McGhee,

president of Western's Gamers' Guild, said technology can bring people together.

The guild is an organization that allows gaming enthusiasts to play and socialize in a group setting.

"We get the gaming buffs out of their dorm rooms into a social atmosphere," he said.

The group plays a variety of games, including cards, board games, video games and computer games.

McGhee said he's noticed a new trend among guild members. Gamers are bringing their laptops and playing World of Warcraft and other computer games at the group's weekly meetings.

Grieve said the games can bring people together, but they can have many negative effects.

"I think the biggest dangers lie in the escapism that occurs and the monetary commitment," he said.

Video games are often designed to keep players constantly looking for the next thing — the next level, the next item or the next challenge, he said.

Grieve said players are more likely to continue to feed their technological cravings when they achieve those goals.

Laves said the danger of gaming isn't in the games themselves.

"It isn't so much the time they spend with the game; it's what they are missing or avoiding in order to play the game," he said.

Reach Jennifer Dooper at news@wkuherald.com.

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# Coast

Continued from page 12

and sophomore guard Brianne Brown have each made the trip from California to play at Western. Next season, the Lady Toppers will welcome guard Adria Jackson.

Cowles said no coaches are assigned to the region to make recruiting trips.

Porter-Talbert, a Manhattan Beach, Calif., native, Sun Belt freshman of the year and player of the year, played for the Lady Toppers from 2002-2006.

Porter-Talbert is currently

playing in Romania.

“Coming to WKU from California was not such a difficult thing for me to do,” Porter-Talbert said in an e-mail. “But what persuaded me was the family atmosphere when I came on my recruiting visit. (The) teammates and coaches were very welcoming, and that was the most important thing for me.”

Cowles signed forward Cacie Pope out of Lakewood, Calif., before the 2003-2004 season.

Despite being sidelined a portion of her career because of illness, Pope has averaged 5.6 points and 4.4 rebounds in 16 career games.

Brianne Brown, from

Brentwood, Calif., came to Bowling Green before the 2005-06 campaign.

“I was being recruited by a lot of Ivy League schools,” she said. “I didn’t know if I wanted to go that far. Western came, and they were honest and straight forward, and a lot of schools I dealt with were kind of ‘iffy’, and Western was always serious about it.”

Brown said the community appeal also persuaded her.

“When you walk down the street, people say ‘hi’” she joked. “They don’t do that in L.A.”

Next season, the Lady Toppers will continue their trend of planting recruiting roots in California, signing Jackson, an

Artesia, Calif., resident, for the 2007-08 season.

Jackson averages 12 points, eight rebounds and four steals per game for Lynwood High School. She signed with the Hilltoppers during the fall signing period.

“I think it helps when we talk to young ladies from Los Angeles,” Cowles said. “And they know that we’ve already had players from that area come in to our program and play for us... We’ve been very fortunate to find that kind of talent, even though it’s a big city, and make it work.”

Reach David Harten  
at sports@wkuherald.com.

# Suite

Continued from page 12

Local businesses have leased the boxes for three or five years, 12 of which were up for renewal this year. Six of the boxes have been leased again to the same companies for five years, and two for three years, Westerfield said.

The remaining four are expected to renew as well.

Because the boxes are independently owned, alcohol can be served in them at the discretion of the owners, Westerfield said.

The menu for the night’s event is also up to the owner, who pays extra for a Centerplate catering package, Westerfield said.

In suite No. 15, the American Bank and Trust and Center of Insurance box, 21 guests munched on cocktail

shrimp and the all-American package, which includes burgers, chicken fingers, hot dogs and an assortment of cookies.

“People love coming up here,” said Tony Salyier, branch president of American Bank and Trust. “We just have room to walk around and freedom to enjoy ourselves.”

While home basketball games are covered, special event tickets are extra.

When the circus last came to Diddle, Salyier said he bought 16 tickets for every show for bank employees and their families.

“People had such a great time, and it was such an easy way to entertain friends,” Salyier said.

Back in suite No. 2, halftime buzzes in, but only a handful of chit-chatting fans notice.

Reach Andrew McNamara  
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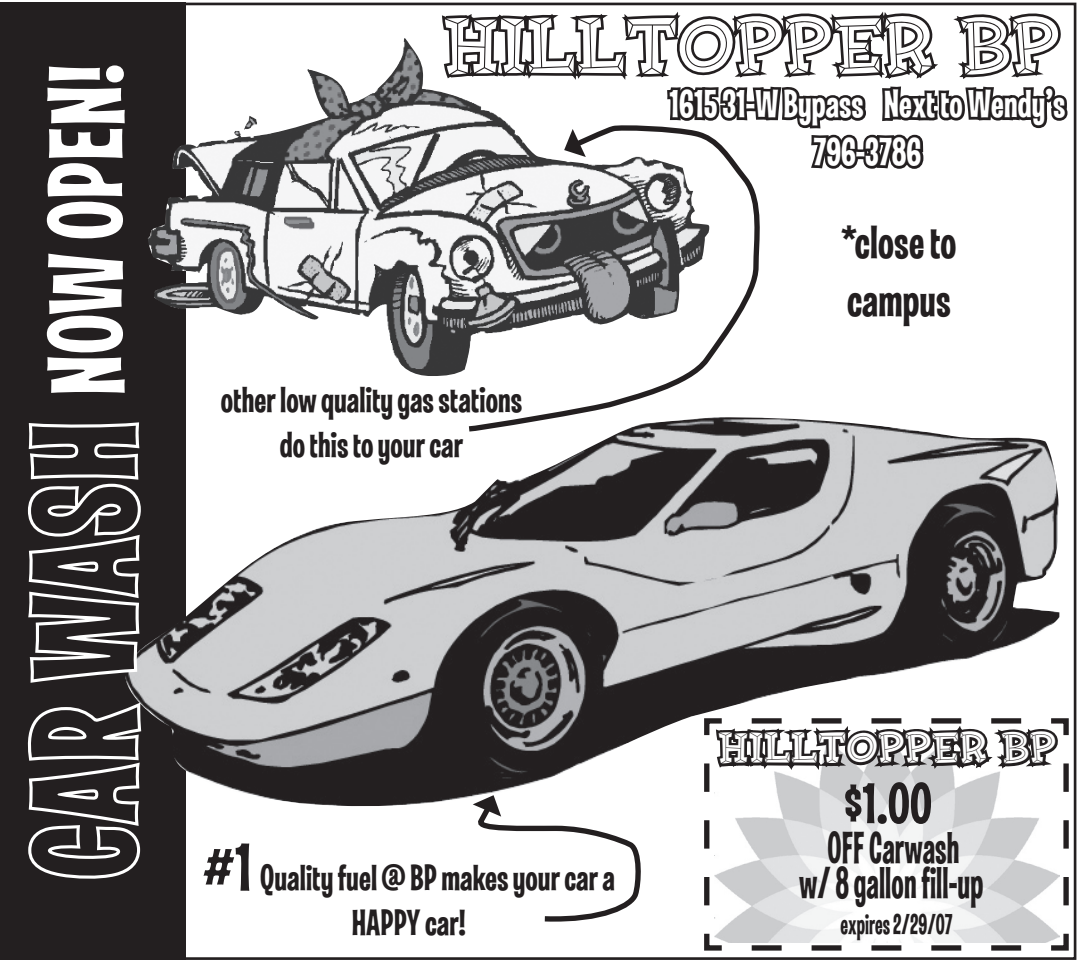
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Chapman Rackaway is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and American Democracy Project Coordinator at Fort Hayes State University. A former political consultant, Professor Rackaway is focused on finding new and creative ways to engage primarily younger citizens in the political process. Professor Rackaway has been widely acknowledged for his use of the New York Times as a pedagogical tool in both general education and major field coursework.

For more information about the NY Times College Program, go to <http://www.nytimes.com/college>.

## WKU Basketball



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Softball

# Lady Toppers playing with ‘freshness’ despite rotten start

By Andrew Robinson  
Herald reporter

Coach Rachel Lawson said before the season started that the Lady Toppers would learn a lot and possibly take a few hits with a difficult early schedule.

Through an early season skid, three freshmen have been producing timely hits and RBIs for Western (4-7). Third-base-man Lindsay Antone, catcher Rochelle Boucher and shortstop Ashley Contreras have all produced positive results in key places for the Lady Toppers.

“I think when you have freshmen on the field, you don’t know how they’re going to handle things because part of being a collegiate athlete is experience,” Lawson said. “They took it in stride and have been provided great leadership from our seniors.”

After getting a slow start

in the first weekend of play, Antone had a breakout this past weekend.

She leads the team with a .357 average.

Last Friday against Winthrop, Antone led the Lady Toppers going three for four, including two home runs and three RBIs in Western’s 8-7 win.

She also leads the team with 10 hits.

Behind the plate, chemistry between Boucher and sophomore pitcher Ryan Rogge has come easy since Boucher caught for Rogge in club softball for four years before coming to Western.

At the plate, Boucher has scored six runs, and two of her

nine hits have been doubles.

“I just go out and do what needs to be done,” Boucher said.

“There were a few times where I went out and didn’t do what I was supposed to. But there were other times I came through and it’s good to be put in those situations.”

Contreras has started all 11 games at shortstop because of a void created by Bailey Rolfs, who graduated last year.

“(Lawson) just reminds me all the time I need to take charge of the infield, that I have a big impact on the team and just need to get my job done,” Contreras said.

Against Virginia on Feb. 10, Contreras picked up a key RBI when she doubled down the

right field line to drive in sophomore right fielder Sam Cronk.

“She in general is an RBI type of person,” Lawson said. “She’s a very exciting player.”

Contreras is batting .321 with two doubles in 28 at bats. Her seven RBIs are tied with sophomore first baseman Rebecca Horesky.

Boucher, Contreras, Antone and the Lady Toppers look to end their five-game losing skid, but may face the most difficult part of their schedule this weekend in the Hampton Inn Classic at Alabama.

Saturday, the Lady Toppers play two ESPN/USA Softball Collegiate top-25 teams in less than 12 hours when they play No. 5 Alabama (10-0) and No. 23 North Carolina State (7-2).

Reach Andrew Robinson at sports@wkuherald.com.

## CHEER

Continued from page 12

This means players like wide receiver Curtis Hamilton, safety Marion Rumph and defensive lineman Dusty Bear will be watching from the sidelines as Western is throttled by defending National Champion Florida on the field in September.

As a player, you play to win championships.

While I’m sure next season’s redshirting seniors didn’t agree to play for Western just for the sake of playing football, you have to play with the hand you’re dealt.

You also play to compete.

It’s hard to imagine that happening at Smith Stadium, or anywhere else for Western, next season.

As a fan, this tells me even the team believes next season is for naught.

This isn’t the first time coaches have given up.

Louisville and Kentucky fans might remember a certain coach who left the Wildcats after a successful run to take the reigns of the Boston Celtics.

That same coach left Beantown after three-plus years of a 10-year, \$50 million contract and a 102-146 record.

While high schools sometimes forfeit games or even seasons, this isn’t expected on the collegiate or professional level.

Why should even the most loyal, die-hard Toppers fan give two cents about a team whose best players only care about the next season?

At least Topper fans can sympathize with Chicago Cubs fans and the phrase, “Wait ‘til next year.”

The mostly paltry attendance at Smith Stadium last season isn’t likely to improve with a Rick Pitino-like program that’s already throwing in the red towel.

Jason Stamm is sports editor and columnist for the Herald. Reach him at sports@wkuherald.com.

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## Notable

•Western's 74-67 win over Kentucky Wesleyan was the Toppers' 20th this season. Western now has 36 20-win seasons in its 88-year history of men's basketball.

# SPORTS

College Heights Herald • Western Kentucky University • Thursday, February 22, 2007 • Page 12

## Contact:

Sports editor Jason Stamm:  
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Photo editor Sarah Wright:  
photo@wkuherald.com



Dana Rieber/Herald

Dan Talley (left), of Princeton, N.Y., talks with his daughter, Emma, while his wife, Jennifer, listens in the background. They are joined by Ryan Price (right) and Anthony Stallins, both of Bowling Green. They were guests in the Atmos Energy Suite located at the top of Diddle Arena.

## The suite life

Luxury boxes offer shrimp, socializing and schmoozing

By Andrew McNamara  
Herald reporter

With a clamorous crowd, blasting arena horn and sporadic referees' whistles, it sounded like a typical Topper basketball game.

But from the Atmos Energy company-owned suite No. 2, one may never notice.

From the upper-level luxury box, the crowd noise is a raspy whisper, the horn is like an ignored alarm clock and the whistles are like the chirps of birds in the distance.

Camaraderie with a co-worker takes precedence over the competition on the floor.

Family members and friends unwind in the supple, black leather seats, which are more like a comfortable chair reserved for crashing into after a difficult work day than the other chairs and bleachers that encircle the arena.

"It's a great way to socialize with clients and friends on an informal

basis," Atmos Sales Manager Dan Price said. "It has really helped us with building relationships."

As part of the \$32.5 million Diddle Arena renovation that began in April 2002 and was completed in August 2003, 16 luxury boxes were added to the upper level of the arena.

"A lot of people are really impressed and surprised with how nice these things really are," said Darian Westerfield, associate director of the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation. The foundation is an athletic booster organization that provides scholarship funding for student-athletes.

The cost for a luxury box is \$29,500 per year with a portion of the money going to the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation, Westerfield said.

The package includes 16 season tickets for men's and women's basketball games, six guest passes per game

and eight parking passes, Westerfield said.

Since some of the money from the luxury box goes to the foundation, it's considered a donation and is tax-deductible, Westerfield said.

In 2005, the leasing of luxury boxes raised \$105,000 for Hilltopper Athletic Foundation, said Paula Jarboe, trust accountant for the WKU Foundation.

Money that isn't donated to the foundation or spent to pay for the tickets and foundation membership is used to pay off Diddle debt, Westerfield said. There is \$31.5 million in outstanding debt from the sale of bonds, said Darrell Horn, director of athletic business affairs.

**16** Total number of luxury boxes

**\$29,500** Cost, per year, for a luxury box

SEE SUITE, PAGE 9

## Column

## No reason to cheer next year



Western's transition to Division I-A football has brought up a number of new possibilities.

The team can now go to bowl games and compete for a Division I-A conference championship as a member of the Sun Belt.

The only problem is, this won't be possible until 2009.

As a new member to the upper echelon of football, Western must go through a two-year transition period to build its program before becoming a full-fledged member.

The next two years are basically meaningless.

Well, next year at least.

This is the message Western fans received from the team just a few weeks ago.

Next season, the team's top seniors will use the available redshirts given by the NCAA to sit out so they'll be available to play in 2008.

SEE CHEER, PAGE 11

## Women's basketball

## West Coast golden for Cowles

By David Harten  
Herald reporter

Since taking over as Lady Topper head coach five years ago, Mary Taylor Cowles has been receiving a considerable amount of "California Love."

In her five seasons, Cowles has recruited some of the best talent in California to come to the Hill.

Cowles said she and her staff pitch a great team atmosphere and strong academic focus to potential recruits.

"I think a lot of recruiting is built on relationships," she said. "On getting to know these young ladies and finding out what they are looking for in the next step of them playing basketball in college, and finding out what is important to them."

Three top talents from the Golden State have spent time in Lady Topper uniforms, with one on the way.

Former Lady Topper Tiffany Porter-Talbert, and current players junior forward Cacie Pope

SEE COAST, PAGE 9

## Men's basketball

## Tops bumble, stumble to 20 wins

By Ed Lukins  
Herald reporter

Western's men's basketball program has grown accustomed to 20-win seasons.

The Toppers have racked up 36 such seasons in the program's 88-year history, and with a 74-67 victory Tuesday night over Division II Kentucky Wesleyan, the milestone has now been achieved three straight years.

The win didn't come easy, though, as Western (20-10, 11-6 Sun Belt Conference) delivered another sub-par performance.

"We looked like a team that played tired," coach Darrin Horn said. "The problem with this team is we have nobody stepping up and saying, 'This is what it takes to get things done.'"

Horn did not make players available for comment after the game.

By halftime, junior forward Courtney Lee

had as many fouls (two) as points, and the Toppers held a five-point advantage.

With his team up 54-50 with seven minutes left in the game, Lee hit his stride, connecting on four straight three-pointers to keep the hot-shooting Panthers at bay.

Lee finished with a game-high 20 points on 7-of-11 shooting, including 4-of-7 from three-point range.

This is the first time the Panthers (11-14, 4-13 Great Lakes Valley Conference) and the Toppers have played since a Western victory in Owensboro in December 1956.

Coach Todd Lee lauded his players for staying competitive.

"We go into each game with the mentality that we can win," Lee said. "Our guys battled hard and stayed in there against a quality team."

The Panthers shot 54 percent for the game

and outrebounded the Toppers 27-18, including 10 on the offensive glass.

The Toppers shot 60 percent from the floor, shooting nearly 50 percent from three-point range.

But Horn said he remains concerned about his team's lack of leadership, and he said a lack of maturity remains evident.

"Our problems are definitely more mental than physical," he said. "We usually play hard, and we practice hard, but we've gotta find a way to get focused."

Saturday night is the regular-season finale for the Toppers. They host Florida International at 4 p.m.

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Greg Barnette/Herald  
Senior forward Butch Jointer shoots over Kentucky Wesleyan junior guard Tim Baker and junior center Marcus Caesar during Western's 74-67 win Tuesday night.

